

Message Text

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41

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 EB-07 CPR-01 OC-05 CCO-00 OTPE-00 FEA-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AGR-10 /113 W

----- 117757

R 281057Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5157

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL UDORN

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 5412

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, PINT, CH, LA

SUBJ: PRESS CONFERENCE BY LAO GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN

AUGUST 28, 1975

1. RADIOS: OUDAY SOUVANNAVONG, THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION'S SPOKESMAN, OPENED HIS REPORT ON THE PGNU CABINET MEETING OF AUGUST 27 BY ANNOUNCING THAT THE CABINET HAD DECIDED TO VOID ALL AUTHORIZATIONS PREVIOUSLY GRANTED TO OWN OR OPERATE AMATEUR RADIOS TRANSMITTERS OR PRIVATE RADIO STATIONS. HOWEVER, IN THE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION OUDAY ASSURED A QUESTIONER THAT THIS RESTRICTION DID NOT APPLY TO CONSULATES OR EMBASSIES.

2. AID FROM CHINA: OUDAY NEXT REPORTED THAT ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN COMPLETED UNDER WHICH THE PEOPLE'S RE-
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PUBLIC OF CHINA WOULD GIVE PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO LAOS

BY DEPOSITING THEM WITH THE SHELL COMPANY IN HONG KONG. THE CABINET HAD AUTHORIZED THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND PLAN TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH SHELL OF HONG KONG AND AS SOON AS THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED, LAOS WOULD BE ABLE TO DRAW 7,600 TONS OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FROM THE SHELL DEPOT AT VIENTIANE.

3. CHINA HAD ALSO SENT LAOS 3,600 TONS OF RICE WHICH WAS ALREADY AT HAIPHONG IN VIET-NAM. THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT HAD SAID THAT IT WOULD USE ALL ITS EFFORTS TO SEE THAT THIS RICE WAS TRANSPORTED TO LAOS. CERTAIN ROADS WERE STILL PASSABLE, FOR EXAMPLE ROUTE 9. THE BALANCE OF 6,400 TONS OF RICE WHICH CHINA WAS COMMITTED TO GIVE LAOS WAS TO BE BOUGHT IN THAILAND.

4. FLOODS? OUDAY THEN DENIED RUMORS THAT THE MEKONG WOULD SOON OVERFLOW AND FLOOD ALL OF VIENTIANE. HE SAID SUCH RUMORS WERE NOT TRUE AND THE MEKONG WOULD NOT FLOOD THIS YEAR.

5. CIVIL GOVERNMENT: IN REPLY TO A QUESTION REGARDING FREE CIRCULATION BETWEEN WHAT WERE ONCE THE TWO ZONES OF LAOS, OUDAY STATED: "YESTERDAY, THE CABINET DID NOT DISCUSS THE MATTER, BUT I CAN TELL YOU THE GOVERNMENT IS VERY HAPPY (OVER "LIBERATION"). SUCH A GATHERING IS UNIQUE AND UNPRECEDENTED (SIC). IT PROVES THAT THE POPULATION OF VIENTIANE AND OF MOST OF LAOS HAS REALIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PEOPLE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COUNTRY. AS YOU KNOW, THE PROVINCE AND MUNICIPALITY OF VIENTIANE WERE LIBERATED LAST, IN THE PROPER SENSE OF THE WORD, THAT IS THEY HAD A CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION. THE GOVERNMENT, AS I HAVE ANNOUNCED ALREADY, HAS FORMED AN INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE, THE CHAIRMAN OF WHICH IS THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR, TO VISIT ALL THE PROVINCES TO OBSERVE THE SITUATION ON THE SPOT AND SUBMIT TO THE CABINET ALL ITS FINDINGS. IF THE CABINET APPROVES THE PROGRAMS OF ALL THE VARIOUS PROVINCIAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES, THE CABINET WILL SUBMIT A DRAFT ROYAL ORDINANCE TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING, AND WILL PUBLISH A PRIME MINISTERIAL

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ORDER. AT THAT TIME THE PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATIONS WILL BECOME REGULAR AND NORMAL. I HOPE THAT AFTER THIS ACT, REGULARIZING ALL THE NOMINATIONS, THE SITUATION IN LAOS WILL RETURN TO NORMAL. ALL OF LAOS WILL THEN DEDICATE ITSELF TO THE URGENT TASKS OF PREPARING FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS AND ACHIEVING SELF-SUFFICIENCY."

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, FLOODS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENTI05412
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750298-0869
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975087/aaaaafzg.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAR 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <23 JAN 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS CONFERENCE BY LAO GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN AUGUST 28, 1975
TAGS: EAID, PFOR, PINT, CH, LA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006